

Drug Court Intent Language Report

Following are DWS' responses to items listed in the following intent language:

The Legislature intends the Department of Workforce Services and the Administrative Offices of the Courts provide a report to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst no later than September 1, 2015. The report shall include, at a minimum: 1) a summary of efforts to improve coordination between the Drug Court program and DWS' Workforce Development Division in order to improve Drug Court success, 2) data indicating the success of the efforts including the implementation and reporting on measures of post program recidivism, and 3) any identified savings or additional funding of drug court recipients as a result of improved coordination efforts.

(2015 General Session, SB 2, Item 77)

1. a summary of efforts to improve coordination between the Drug Court program and DWS' Workforce Development Division in order to improve Drug Court success.
2. data indicating the success of the efforts including the implementation and reporting on measures of post program recidivism:

Approximately half of Drug Court participants are employed when they begin. The Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) 2014 annual report shows that there was a 57 percent increase in full/part-time employment from admission to discharge. The DSAMH 2014 annual report also indicates a 65 percent decrease in clients arrested from 30 days prior to treatment to 30 days prior to discontinuation/discharge.

Recidivism rates are reported by designated local substance abuse authorities (LSAAs). Under Utah law, DSAMH does not operate or provide services directly. As part of the Utah Department of Human Services, DSAMH contracts with local county governments who are statutorily designated as LSAAs. At this point the recidivism data submitted is:

- 4 of 13 LSAA's estimate that the drug court recidivism rates are low, estimating around 13% percent.
- 9 of 13 LSAA's reported they do not collect any recidivism rates.
- Salt Lake looks at recidivism rates every 2 years but these numbers were not supplied.

Recidivism rates are influenced by various factors outside the control of either DWS or DSAMH, so it is not a good measure of coordination efforts between the agencies. Percent increase in full/part-time employment from admission to discharge may be a better measure of these coordination efforts, though even that can be drastically affected by factors outside the control of the agencies, like the overall health of the economy.

3. any identified savings or additional funding of drug court recipients as a result of improved coordination efforts:

No savings have been measured yet as coordination efforts are newly underway. Coordination efforts have identified the need to ensure all eligible clients are enrolled in Medicaid to ensure maximum funding by the Medicaid program.

DWS Community Connections: Drug Court Coordination

DWS is a partner to assist participants whose lives have been seriously impacted by substance abuse issues and guide them as they work to achieve self-sufficiency. This is very much a “team philosophy” which includes: Judge, Assistant Attorney General, Guardian Ad Litem, DCFS, Mental Health Therapist, Public Defender, Vocational Rehabilitation and DWS.

Orientation Phase (14 days) to connect and meet with all partnering agencies.

- Provide the participant with an overview of DWS Services.
- Review temporary assistance eligibility case and assist customer in navigating and accessing services (this is crucial to stabilize the individual/family).
- Coordinate with other agencies not part of Drug Court Team such as ORS, housing, etc.

Phase 1 - Stabilization (minimum of 8 weeks) to become acclimated to schedules & requirements of the court and daily life.

- Continue to monitor needs of customer and link with all appropriate DWS services.
- Support compliance with ESD services since meeting daily living needs is imperative to success.
- Act as a resource to the other agencies for any clarification of services through DWS.

Phase 2 - Transition (minimum of 8 weeks) to add employment & learn to juggle activities.

- Assess work history and work readiness.
- Begin job search and connect to DWS workshops as needed.
- Provide *SmartStart* and other DWS informational guides.
- Support ESD supportive services - provide prompts if eligibility needs information and assist customer in providing information.
- Review short & long term goals; discuss patterns of employment and how to improve upon them.
- Act as a resource to customer with any employment needs including contact with employer if the participant is given jail time.

Phase 3 - Recovery (minimum of 12 weeks) assess work & family life progress.

- Assist with any employment related needs of customer.
- Assess employment needs and help customer problem solve as situations arise.
- Coordinate with Drug Court Team as situations arise that may impact customer/family.

Phase 4 - Maintenance (minimum of 12 weeks) participant taking more control.

- Continue to work with customer to maintain employment, address any concerns by customer as they arise.

Phase 5 - Aftercare/Reentry (minimum of 30 days) less involvement in court/more in life activities.

- Continued support in all DWS services even post-graduation.
- Provide resources, supportive services as needed for long time success.

DSAMH Addendum to DWS Response

1. The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) is in agreement with the DWS response but would like to add the additional information.
2. DSAMH has added the following language to the Drug Court section of the 2016 Division Directive, which incorporates the requirement into the contract language.
 - a. *"Drug Courts shall ensure that participants meet with the Department of Workforce Services and/or health care navigators to determine eligibility for Medicaid, other public insurance or commercial insurance."*
 - b. Compliance with this requirement will be part of DSAMH's audit/site visit process which begins in October. This year DSAMH has plans to visit more Drug Courts than in previous years and this will be a special focus of the visits to both the LSAA's and the Drug Courts.
 - c. DSAMH has been working with the AOC to ensure that compliance with the requirement is part of the Drug Court certification process.
3. DSAMH is working with CCJJ on JRI outcome measures that will better allow the Division, the Drug Courts and the Local Substance Abuse Authorities to better track both outcomes and recidivism. However, since Recidivism is primarily a legal measure, the LSAA's do not have the ability to track recidivism for individuals who are discharged from their system. They must rely on information from the Criminal Justice System. Matching data from the treatment system to the Criminal Justice System's data base, is labor intensive and expensive due to differences in the data bases and the requirements of Federal Confidentiality Regulations for SUD Programs (42CFR Part 2).
4. DSAMH has contracted with the National Center for State Courts to develop Performance Measures and is working to modify electronic record systems and drug court data collection methods to provide a consistent set of statewide data measures.
5. DSAMH currently uses the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) to collect data on criminal justice involvement from admission to discharge, but is unable to reliably track criminal justice involvement post discharge from treatment.
6. DSAMH is also able to track employment/enrollment in school through TEDS.
7. DSAMH and the AOC will highlight the requirement to work closely with WFS during the upcoming Drug Court Conference on Oct 29-30.